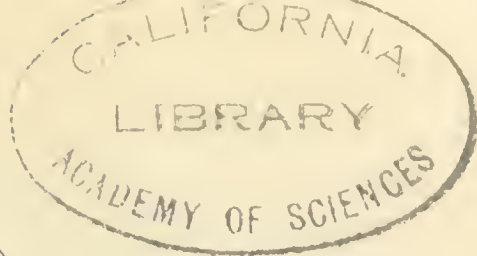


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**THE**  
MONTHLY



**GULL**  
BULLETIN

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**OCTOBER MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 13th inst., at eight o'clock in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd floor, Room 19.

The speaker of the evening will be Miss Thelma Troile Kruger. Subject: "Studies of Tropical Birds Under Local Conditions." Type specimens will be on display.



**OCTOBER FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, October 16th, to Lake Merced. East Bay members should take ferry boat reaching San Francisco about 8:40 a. m., and go thence by Mission Street car, line No. 12, with "Ocean" sign. If cars No. 17 or K are taken transfer to No. 12, Sloat Boulevard car. Leave car at Fort Funston entrance on Sloat Blvd., near 41st Ave., where party will form at 9:30 a. m.

This trip usually extends all the way around the lake, reaching the cars again at Daly City, but individuals so desiring may curtail it by returning from the lake to Sloat Blvd.



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:** The one hundred twenty-sixth regular meeting of the Association was held on September 8th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mr. I. M. Parry, Secretary pro tem. Thirty members and guests present.

The minutes of the directors' meeting held August 23, 1927, at 7:45 p. m. in the office of Dr. D'Evelyn, were read. Some of the matters considered by the Board are here given.

The Board voted to contribute \$10 to the Bridges' Memorial Fund from the treasury of the Association. Since then this sum has been increased to \$15.50 by private contributions from members.

Mr. Lastreto moved that the nomination of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson as honorary member of the Association be approved. Carried.

Mr. Lastreto was appointed custodian of the archives of the Association, including past minute books and other papers and documents, it being understood that he have the same for safekeeping in the vault in his office at 260 California St., San Francisco.

The price of life membership was discussed, with the result that the following amendment was offered to the members at the meeting. It is subject to final vote of two-thirds of the membership at the October meeting:

Art. III. In Section Five after the words "Life Membership, \$25," insert the following words: "After the 1st of January, 1928, life membership fee shall be \$50.00," then continuing to read "payable in advance."

Three avenues of civic service were discussed:

1. Children's meetings, periodically, with appropriate program therefor.
2. Signifying willingness of the Association to furnish speakers and reasonable assistance to organizations, clubs, service and other smaller organizations, tending toward the creation of interest in the study and the protection of birds and leading toward additional membership and wider scope of the Association. This work to be discussed with the Fish and Game Commission and dove-tailed in with its educational activities and program.
3. Bird census and diary, formulated along lines previously employed. This matter to be taken up in the early spring of 1928.

A motion was carried to the effect that the direction of the above activities be one of the functions of the President, who may at his discretion request and appoint different members on occasions as they present themselves.

Mr. Harry S. Swarth then entertained the Association with a most interesting account of bird experiences in Arizona. All present developed a strong desire to visit the adjacent State, a region comparatively near that afforded such wonderful opportunities for a large number of birds new to most local bird students.

Mr. Swarth said in part:

"The birds of the State may be roughly divided into two groups: 1. The avifauna of the high mountains; 2. The avifauna of the plains and valleys.

"Mountain birds of the northern half of the State, that is, north of the Mogollon Divide, are mostly the same as or derived from the central Rocky Mountain region, namely, Dusky grouse, Alpine three-toed woodpecker, etc.

"Mountain birds of the mountains of southern Arizona, mostly scattered and isolated ranges, belong to the fauna of the Mexican plateau region to the southward, namely, many humming-birds, coppery trogon, red-faced warbler, etc.

"The birds of the plains and valleys are distinctly a desert assemblage and are typical of the region. Arizona is certainly the home of the thrashers, both as to species and individuals. Other representative lowland forms are vermilion flycatcher, cactus woodpecker, roadrunner and cactus wren.

"One of the outstanding features is the tropical element distinguishing the bird life of the extreme southern part of the State. The thick-billed parrot, painted red-start and fourteen species of humming-birds, as contrasted with eighteen in the whole of the United States, are good examples.

"Another feature is the giant cactus association. The mesas covered with giant cactus do not present a promising aspect to the bird student, but nevertheless many species occupy these regions, some of them not occurring elsewhere. The gilded flicker is closely restricted to the neighborhood of this plant. This bird, together with the Gila woodpecker, digs holes in the Saguaras which are later occupied by other species. Elf owls, Arizona crested flycatchers, sparrow-hawks, screech owls and purple martins nest in holes, while western red-tailed hawks and western horned owls frequently nest in the forking arms of the cactus."



### ALASKA EAGLES DISAPPEARING

(From National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway,  
New York City)

New York, September 17th.—That the American eagle in Alaska is disappearing under the bounty system inaugurated in 1917 by that Territory, is the report given out today by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, who has just returned from an extended trip in Alaska.

"There are many of these eagles left," said Dr. Pearson, "but from what I saw and learned, on all hands, it is very plain that the bird is far less numerous than a few years ago. A day spent hunting eagles between Ketchikan and Haines, a distance of eighty-eight miles, resulted in the finding of thirty-seven of these great birds. In other sections of the Coast I found them scarce. Official records of the bounties paid up to August 4, 1927, as supplied me by Karl Thiele, Secretary of Alaska, showed that the feet of 40,753 eagles had been turned in for the \$1 bounty (formerly 50 cents)."

Dr. Pearson also stated that on all sides the eagles are regarded as destructive to fish. Ptarmigans, young mountain sheep, fawns, and young blue foxes. "I found it very difficult, however, to find people who had actually seen eagles performing any of these depredations, aside from eating fish. Some observers told me that the majority of fish taken by the eagles were on the spawning grounds where after the fish have performed their biological functions they lie in a dead or dying condition. As many as one or two hundred eagles often gather along the lower reaches of a salmon stream. Suggestion was made to me in various quarters that the eagle had now been so reduced in numbers that Alaska might very well discontinue the bounty. Others questioned whether Alaska is getting sufficient return for the money expended in the bounty system. The chief center of abundance of the Bald Eagle is along the southern coast in the neighborhood of the salmon streams. During 2,000 miles travel in the interior of Yukon and Alaska I saw only one pair of Bald Eagles. In the mountains one finds the Golden Eagle, which in no way exists in such abundance as does the Bald Eagle along the Coast."



### TRIALS OF BIRD-LOVING GARDENERS

When trying to develop an interesting garden, birds often present a serious problem. When the black crown night herons lost their old breeding grounds in the Cohen tract in Alameda a bird lover who had a fine old cypress tree hoped that at least one of the families would locate at her address, but no tenants arrived. Night heron were no longer uppermost in her mind, when a few days ago she heard a commotion in her garden. On investigation she found her dogs barking at a young heron who was helping himself to her gold fish. Finally he settled on a branch of a large fig tree. A little later he resumed his fishing and was again frightened away, but not until he had devoured five fish. The next time he descended from his perch he flew into a corner of the garden. They were in hot pursuit after him and killed him. This undoubtedly was a bird of the year whose parents had started a controversy in the city because they had taken up their abode over the bleachers in the park.

In another instance recently an owl was shot in Walnut Creek because it took to fishing in a large pool.

In choosing shrubs for a garden the bird lover often plants material that will attract birds. With this thought in mind, I planted *pyracantha crenulata*, one of the berried shrubs, the fruit of which matures toward the end of August or in September. Some years the russet backed thrushes have gathered in numbers and cleaned up every berry, but at least I have then had the pleasure of the company of thrushes and also have had the satisfaction of seeing the ten-foot tall bush cover itself with brilliant fruit. Last year the sparrows took a lot of the ripe fruit. These birds do not swallow the whole fruit thrush fashion, but peck out the seeds, making the bush look very straggly and unkempt. This year the English sparrows in particular are feasting, not on ripe fruit, but on the green and slightly colored berries, so that there is little satisfaction left in growing that particular species in my garden. Less than a block distant from my place is a hedge of these berries that have for the past years persisted all winter. JUNE W. (MRS. G. EARLE) KELLY.



## THE GULL

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken Sunday, the 11th, to Baumberg, near Mt. Eden.

The day was pleasant. Though overcast at first, it was not cold and later on the sun burst forth.

Our walk led us over marshes and along levees. Shortly we came upon a flock of sandpipers, both western and least, which we studied for some time.

In the distance a large flock of white pelicans was seen, some at rest and some in flight. It was decided, however, at this moment to have lunch and then proceed to a more advantageous position to view them.

While at lunch a kingfisher perched upon a stick projecting from the water near by. This was the second of its kind seen today, the other being observed on a telegraph wire at the Oakland mole.

Lunch over, we advanced towards the pelicans, a flock of two hundred or more. An excellent view was had, but they soon took to flight. Other birds were found here in great numbers, principally pintail ducks in their eclipse plumage. A Caspian tern was discovered in the midst of this great aggregation of birds taking a very extensive bath. A sandpiper with a crippled wing was captured here and after being examined and identified as a Western sandpiper was released.

Feeding on the shore of another pond was a lone avocet. Quite heedless of our curious crowd, he afforded a happy climax to the day's experiences, allowing us to approach within twenty or thirty feet of him.

Some of our members, returning to San Francisco over Bay Farm Island, found Hudsonian curlew, western willet and marbled godwit feeding on the beach.

Birds encountered numbered thirty-four, as follows:

On the bay: Northern western, California and Heerman gulls and Farallon double-crested cormorant.

At Baumberg: Glaucous-winged and ring-billed gulls, Coes Caspian tern, American white pelican, American pintail duck, California great blue heron, American coot, northern phalarope, American avocet, long-billed dowitcher, least and western sandpipers, grebe and lesser yellow-legs, northern killdeer, northern turkey vulture, desert sparrow hawk, western belted kingfisher, California horned lark, San Francisco red-winged blackbird, western meadow lark, California Brewer blackbird, California linnet, green-backed Arkansas goldfinch, Bryant Savannah and song sparrows, northern cliff and barn swallows, California loggerhead shrike, San Francisco yellow-throat.

Members in attendance: Mesdames Fowler, Juda, Kelly, Kibbe, Mexia and Stephens; the Misses Boegle, Bumbough, Cohen, Ethel Crum, Haefner, Clelia Paroni, Pettit, Sterne, Werner; Messrs. Bacon, Bryant, Wm. J. Drew, Hansen, Smith.

As guests: Mesdames Clark and Heyman; the Misses Burroughs, Fisher, Camilla Paroni, Payne; Messrs. Clark and Stephens; Scouts Felix and Harold Juda, Uglow; Master Wm. F. Drew. Twenty members and twelve guests.

LAURA A. STEPHENS.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, 1311 Grand St., Alameda.

Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year.

Membership dues, payable January 1, \$3.00 per year.